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XXX. EXTRACTS *from the* MINUTE-BOOK *of the* LINNEAN  
SOCIETY *of* LONDON.

Jan. 21, 1823. **R**EAD a Communication from Major-general Hardwicke, F.L.S., containing a Description, accompanied with a Drawing, of the *Cervus Pygargus* of Pallas, or *Tail-less Deer*, a native of the snowy mountains and plains of Muktinauth, about five weeks' journey from the valley of Nepaul, in a north-west direction. The subject examined was a full-grown male, 7 feet 8 inches in length from the tip of the upper lip to the extremity of the very short tail, and 4 feet 3 inches in height.

Major-general Hardwicke also communicated to the Society an account of the Wild Sheep, or *Ovis Argali* of Pallas, common to the mountains and plains between the Himáláya range and the valley of Nepaul.

Feb. 18. Alterations in the 2d Section of Chapter II. and the 2d Section of Chapter X. of the Bye-Laws of the Society having been proposed by the Council, and read at the last two General Meetings, as directed by the Charter, were put to the ballot, and confirmed. The altered Laws are as follows, viz.

CHAP. II. SECT. 2.

“ Every person who shall be elected a Fellow after the 24th day of May 1823, shall, before he be admitted,

mitted, pay to the use of the Society the sum of Five Guineas for his Admission Fee: and if any such person refuse or fail to pay the said sum, his election shall be void, unless the Admission Fee be remitted in whole or in part by a special order of the Council."

CHAP. X. SECT. 2.

"Every sum of money payable on account of the Society, amounting to Five Pounds or upwards, shall be paid by order of the Council, signed by the President or Vice-President in the Chair, and registered by the Secretary."

Read a Description, by Major-general Hardwicke, of the *Sciurus Petaurista* of Linn. from Singapore, where it is frequently seen springing playfully among the trees in forests.

March 4. Major-general Hardwicke communicated a Description and Drawing of the *Boa phrygia* of Shaw, which the General considers as a species of *Coluber*, the subcaudal scales, at least in some specimens, being all divided.—“The habits of this serpent are very active. Like other serpents it was sluggish about the time of its periodical changes of skin, viz. every thirty or thirty-five days, and it seldom appeared inclined to take food while under that operation; but soon after having cast the old skin it readily took what was put into the cage. Within twelve months it had eaten four chickens, two pigeons, two rats, and one crow. Its total length was 8 feet 2 inches, of which the tail measured 14 inches.”

June

June 17. Major-general Hardwicke communicated an Account of the *Buceros undulatus* of Shaw,  $36\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, including the bill of 7 inches and tail of 12 inches.—  
“ This bird when taken seemed to have attained its full growth ; at least it did not increase in size during the two years it was confined in a cage. Its habits were playful and docile. It was fed on plantains and boiled rice. It died when moulting, and fell suddenly from its perch. Its weight, in good condition, was 5 pounds 2 ounces. It is a native of the woods about Chittagong and Sylhet.”

Nov. 4. Dr. Sims, F.L.S. communicated to the Society an Extract of a Letter from W. Fothergill, Esq. of Carr-end, near Arkrigg, in Yorkshire, containing a notice of the *Falco furcatus* Linn. having been taken alive in Shawgill, near Hawes in Wensleydale, in that county, on the 6th of September 1805. Mr. Fothergill states, that,  
“ apparently to avoid the violence of a tremendous thunder-storm, and the clamorous persecution of a flock of rooks which attacked it at the same instant, it took shelter in a thicket, where it was seized before it could extricate itself. The person who caught it kept it a month ; but a door being accidentally left open, it made its escape. It first alighted on a tree at no great distance, from which it soon ascended in a spiral flight to a great elevation, and then went steadily off in a southerly direction as far as the eye could trace it.”

Mr. Fothergill also states, that the *Rallus pusillus* of Gmel. (*Gallinula minuta* of Montagu and *G. pusilla* of Temminck) “ was shot on the 6th of May 1807, by  
John

John Humphrey, Esq. of Wensley, on the banks of the Yore, near that place. It was alone, and suffered itself to be approached very near without betraying any sense of danger. It ran with great rapidity, carrying its tail erect."

Colonel Montagu has given an account of a bird of this species having been killed in England in 1809, and it had not before been noticed as a British bird.

Feb. 3, 1824. Read a Letter from John Hogg, Esq. M.A. F.L.S., of Norton, near Stockton-on-Tees, containing an account of the Golden Eagle (*Falco chrysaetos* Linn.) having been shot near the mouth of the Tees on the 5th of November last.

April 20. Sir Thomas Gery Cullum, Bart. F.L.S. exhibited specimens of the *Sirex juvencus* Linn., and a piece of Scotch Fir (*Pinus sylvestris*) which had been perforated by it. These were communicated to Sir Thomas by the Countess of Stradbroke, who informed him that nearly 200 trees of the Scotch Fir have been destroyed by this insect in the Earl of Stradbroke's woods, at Henham-Hall, in Suffolk. It is stated, that the man who has the superintendence of the woods has for some time observed the trees in a part of the park to be more or less sickly; but until within the last three or four years he had attributed the decay of the trees to the poverty of the soil.

June 15. The Secretary exhibited a hermaphrodite Insect, of which the left side is that of *Papilio Laodocus* Fab., and the right side that of *Papilio Polycaon* Fab., thus proving

proving that these insects, which have been hitherto considered as distinct species, are the sexes of the same, *P. Polyaon* being the male. This interesting specimen is from Brazil, and was sent to Mr. Mac-Leay by John Dixon, Esq., of Rio de Janeiro.

Nov. 2. Mr. James De Carle Sowerby, F.L.S., presented specimens of a Fresh-water Shell, probably the *Mytilus polymorphus*, Gmel. 3363, which is found in abundance, attached to shells and timber, in the Commercial Docks by James Bryant, Esq., who uses the animal as bait for perch. Mr. Sowerby observes, that "the strong resemblance which it bears to the marine *Mytili* is very remarkable. Independently, however, of the *septa* within the valves, there are many other differences to be observed, several of which are in the structure of the included animal, although it possesses a strong *byssus*: among others, the foot is small, and the lips of the mouth are differently placed, being more like those in the animal of the *Unio ovalis*. It has two tubes, and the mantle is united almost all round, and bordered with a band of bright orange between two bands of black. Some of the *septa* within the beaks appear to be a kind of disease, as they are not constant. The same species is found in the Danube, and in the rivers of Russia; but the British specimens are much larger and finer than any foreign ones I have seen."

Nov. 16. Read a Letter from Mr. John Atkinson of Leeds, F.L.S., accompanied with some specimens of Coleopterous Insects which were discovered among the  
linen

linen immediately enveloping the body of a mummy from Thebes, which was recently presented to the Museum of the Philosophical Society of that town. Mr. Atkinson states, that "the subject appears to have been a person of ordinary cast, and not preserved with the care usually bestowed on the bodies of persons of a higher rank. The viscera and internal parts have contained thousands of larvæ, which have been prevented from arriving at their perfect state by the process of embalming being finished. Few of the insects had penetrated more than through two or three folds of cloth, and there perished."

Since the above communication was received, Mr. J. S. Miller of Bristol, A.L.S., has transmitted some specimens of Insects found by him on the unwrapping of an Egyptian mummy. The insects proved in both cases to be the same, and were undoubtedly *Dermestes vulpinus* and *Necrobia violacea*, although of a much lighter colour than usual.

Nov. 16. Read some Observations on the *Motacilla Hippolais* of Linn. by the Rev. Revett Sheppard, M.A. F.L.S. Mr. Sheppard considers that "all succeeding authors, with the exception of Bewick, have mistaken Linnæus's bird, and that the *Lesser Pettychaps* (a name badly substituted for *Lesser Willow-Wren*) has no claim whatever to be considered as the *Motacilla Hippolais*, for which Linnæus refers to the *Pettychaps* of Ray, whose description exactly agrees with the *Greater Pettychaps*. Some parts, however, of Linnæus's description seem at variance with Ray's; but they may easily be reconciled." In the year 1819 Mr. Sheppard  
shot

shot a *Greater Pettychaps*, the legs of which were tinged with flesh-colour; and if Linnæus described from such a specimen when stuffed and dried, he would unquestionably describe the legs as dark brown or fuscous. Mr. Sheppard upon the whole is satisfied that “the *Greater Pettychaps* is the *Motacilla Hippolais* of Linnæus, or *Sylvia Hippolais* of modern authors;” and he proposes that the *Lesser Pettychaps* or *Lesser Willow-Wren* should be named “*Sylvia achetella*, from its every now and then, while the female is sitting, shivering its wings, and finishing its song with a cry very similar to the noise made by some species of crickets.”

The following Observations by the Rev. Revett Sheppard were also read, viz.

“*Esox lucius*. No author that I know of has noticed the migration of Pikes, such as takes place yearly in spring in the Cam, up which river they come in great shoals, doubtless from the fens in the neighbourhood of Ely, where they are bred.

“*Cyprinus Brama*. There exist in the river Trent, in the neighbourhood of Newark, two species or varieties of Bream. The common one, *Cyprinus Brama*, is known there by the name of Carp Bream, from its yellow colour, and has been taken of nearly 8lbs. weight. The other species or variety, which I believe to be nondescript, never exceeds a pound in weight. It is of a silvery hue, and goes by the name of White Bream.

“*Talpa europæa*. A variety of the Mole is occasionally found at Levington, in the county of Suffolk. The snout is white, and a white line extends from the

middle of it as far upon the head as on a level with the eyes. Belly orange-tawny, which colour reaches to the breast, where it becomes narrow, and then forms a line across it reaching to the insertion of the fore feet. Tail covered thinly with long white hair, and the extreme half of it entirely white."

Dec. 21. Read a Letter from Mr. John Youell, of Yarmouth, A.L.S., addressed to the Secretary, in which he states, that on the 24th of May last, *Ardea Cayennensis*, Linn. was taken near the walls of that town. It has six crest-feathers of unequal length, and agrees with Linnæus's description of that species in all respects.

Mr. Youell also states, that a pair of the Green Ibis, *Tantalus viridis* Gmel., were taken near Yarmouth in October last.

Having remarked that Bewick, in describing the Coot, *Fulica atra* Linn., says that "it is a bad traveller, and may be said not to walk, but to splash and waddle between one pool and another with a laboured, ill-balanced, and awkward gait,"—Mr. Youell observes, that "this excellent author could have had but few opportunities of noticing the habits of this bird; for instead of being awkward on land, it is fully as lively on land as in the water, standing firmly and steadily, and without any tottering or waddling in its gait. It picks up grain with surprising alacrity; even much quicker than any of our domestic poultry. If deprived of water in which to pass the night, it will roost, as other land-birds, upon any elevated situation, and it will ascend a tree with the activity of the wren."

May



May 3, The Secretary reported that the following Members  
1825. have subscribed to defray the expense of a Bust of  
Sir James Edward Smith, the President and Institutor of  
this Society, to be executed by F. Chantry, Esq. R.A.,  
and to be placed in the Meeting-Room.

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